GOLD KEY

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PT 109

12c

The true story of PT 109, a grimy, battle-scarred veteran of the Guadalcanal campaign, and its boyish skipper from Boston named John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

CLIFF ROBERTSON

PT 109

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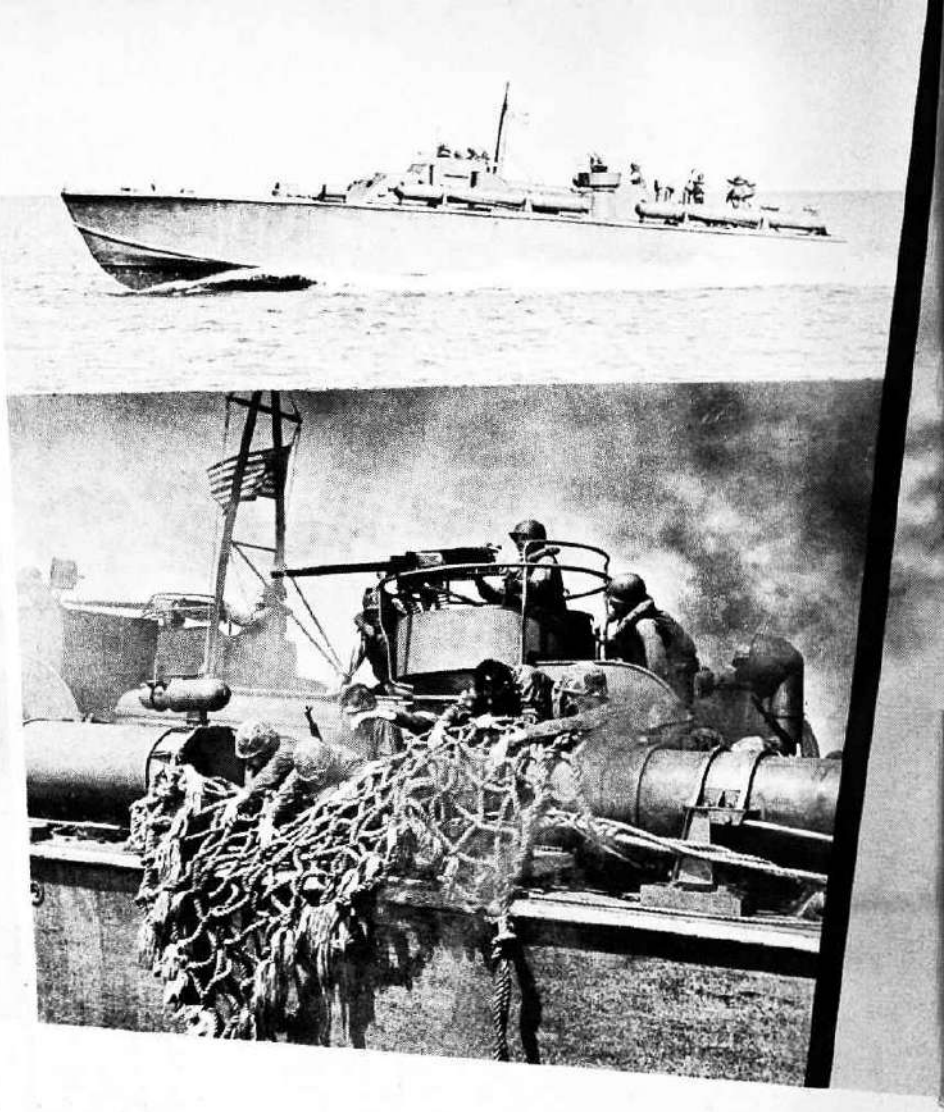

PT 109

Starring
CLIFF ROBERTSON

TY HARDIN · JAMES GREGORY · ROBERT CULP

FROM THE BOOK BY ROBERT J. DONOVAN · DIRECTED BY LESLIE H. MARTINSON GRANT WILLIAMS

UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF JACK L. WARNER SCREENPLAY BY RICHARD L. BREEN PRODUCED BY BRYAN FOY · TECHNICOLOR® · PANAVISION® · PRESENTED BY WARNER BROS.

PT 109

IN AUGUST OF 1942, THE AMERICAN NAVY WAS ASSIGNED THE JOB OF SEA SUPPORT IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS. BECAUSE THE PT BOAT WAS A FAST, SHALLOW DRAFT WHIPPET CARRYING MAXIMUM FIRE AND TORPEDO POWER, IT WAS CHOSEN TO "BUY TIME" FOR A NAVY THAT WAS STILL ON THE DRAWING BOARDS. THIS NARRATIVE CONCERNS ONE OF THOSE BOATS AND ITS CREW... PT109...

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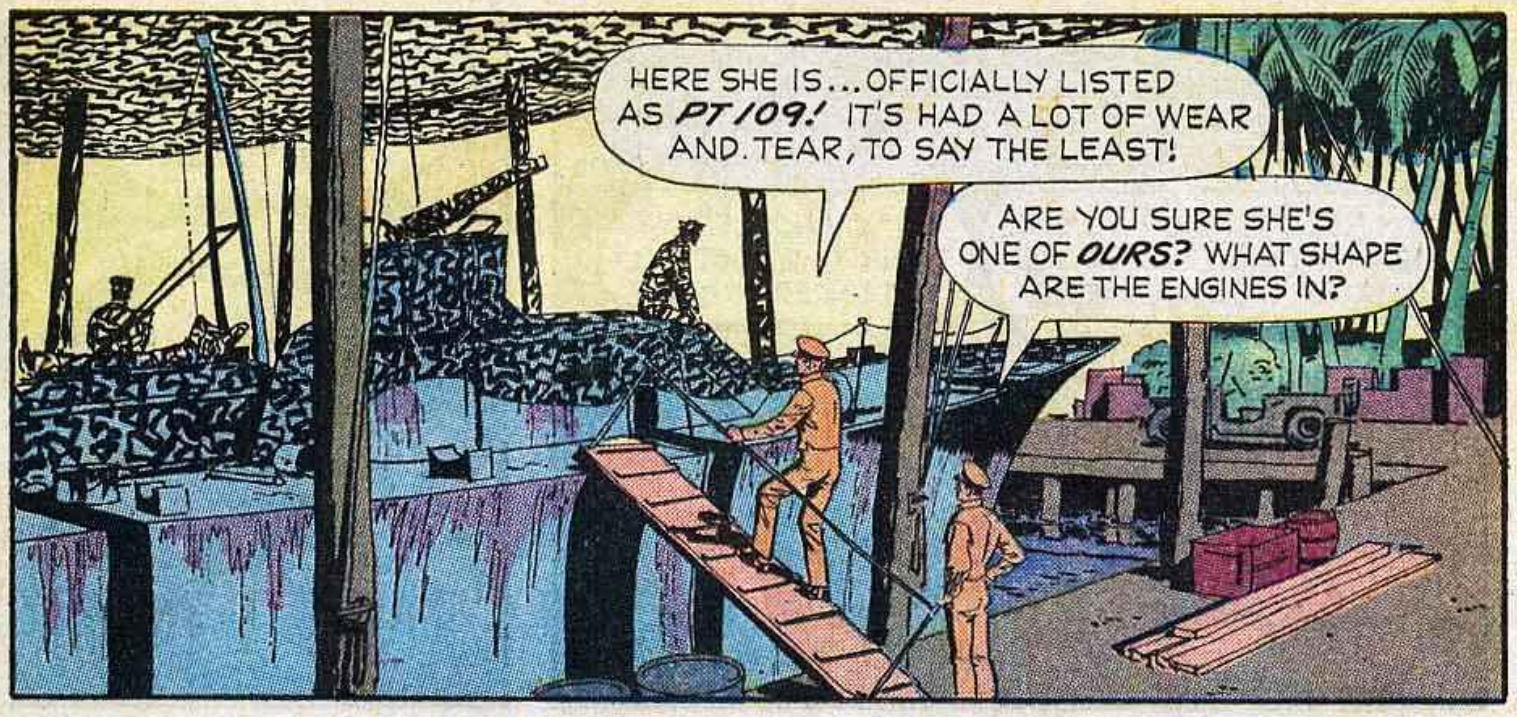
BUT, MR. KENNEDY... THEY'RE FIGHTIN' A WAR OUT HERE!
SO I'VE BEEN TOLD!

WE'VE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN FOR NOW!

BUT, MR. KENNEDY... WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE OUT HERE... GIVE ME JUST ONE GOOD REASON!
I DON'T HAVE TO GIVE A REASON, ROGER! I USED UP ALL MY GOOD REASONS JUST TO GET THEM TO SEND ME OUT HERE! SIMPLE?

I GUESS SO! BUT—WITH THINKIN' LIKE THAT, YOU'RE JUST NEVER GONNA MAKE OUT, SIR!

LATER, ON THE ISLAND OF TULAGI, KENNEDY, A QUALIFIED PT SKIPPER, IS ASSIGNED A BOAT...
THAT'S NOT THE 109 IS IT, COMMANDER RITCHIE?
OF COURSE NOT! I TOLD YOU THE 109 WAS IN REALLY BAD SHAPE!

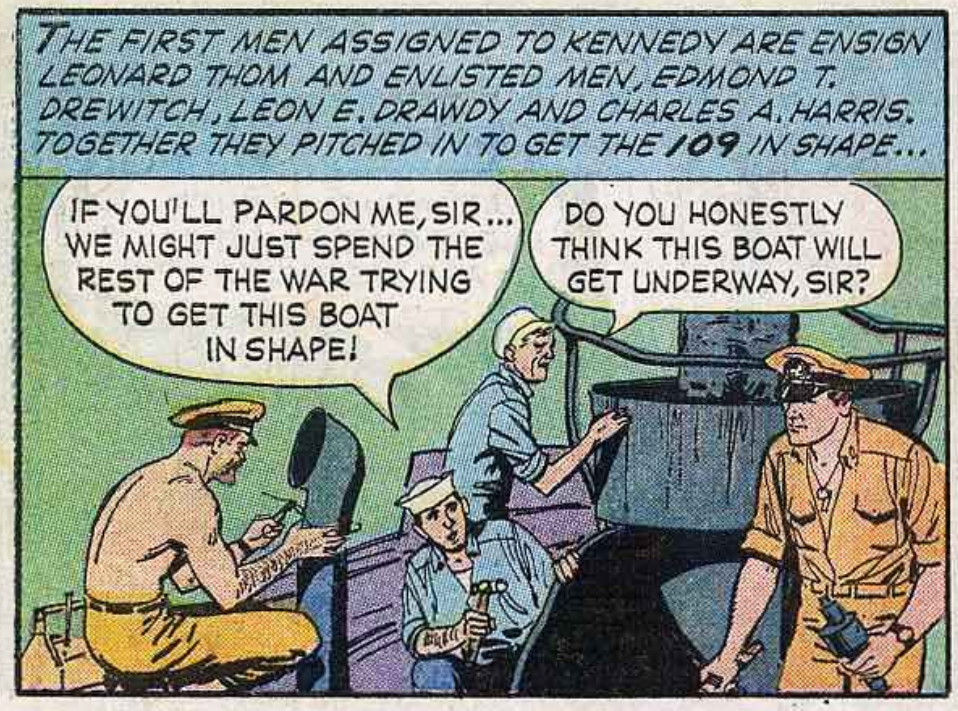

HERE SHE IS...OFFICIALLY LISTED AS PT109! IT'S HAD A LOT OF WEAR AND TEAR, TO SAY THE LEAST!
ARE YOU SURE SHE'S ONE OF OURS? WHAT SHAPE ARE THE ENGINES IN?

NOT QUITE AS GOOD AS THE REST OF THE BOAT!
TO TURN IT BACK INTO A BOAT... I HARDLY KNOW WHERE TO START!

IF I WERE YOU, I'D START LAYING A KEEL!
WELL, IT WILL TAKE WORK... BUT I'D LIKE TO GIVE IT A TRY!

ALL RIGHT, KENNEDY... YOU'VE GOT A WEEK TO PUT IT IN SHAPE! I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT ROUNDING UP A CREW FOR YOU!
THANK YOU, COMMANDER!

...AND, KENNEDY... I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU'VE BEEN... I JUST EXPECT YOU TO RUN A TAUT SHIP AND HANG ONTO NAVY REGS!
AYE, AYE, SIR!


THE FIRST MEN ASSIGNED TO KENNEDY ARE ENSIGN LEONARD THOM AND ENLISTED MEN, EDMOND T. DREWITCH, LEON E. DRAWDY AND CHARLES A. HARRIS. TOGETHER THEY PITCHED IN TO GET THE 109 IN SHAPE...
IF YOU'LL PARDON ME, SIR... WE MIGHT JUST SPEND THE REST OF THE WAR TRYING TO GET THIS BOAT IN SHAPE!
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THIS BOAT WILL GET UNDERWAY, SIR?

IT WILL... EVEN IF I HAVE TO TOW IT WITH MY TEETH! LET'S TURN TO, MEN!

THE NEXT DAY, SIX MORE CREW MEMBERS REPORT TO THE 109. THEY ARE SEAMEN KIRKSEY, MARNEY, KOWAL, ALBERT, MAUER, AND MAGUIRE...
WELCOME ABOARD, SAILORS! WHERE'S YOUR GEAR, MAUER?
SIR, I WAS ON THE NIAGARA! MY STUFF WENT DOWN WITH THE SHIP!

MAYBE WE CAN MAKE YOU THE COOK! EVER DO ANY COOKING?
YES, SIR! I USED TO FIX PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICHES FOR MY KID BROTHER... SOMETIMES EVEN PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY!

THEN IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ELECTED! MAYBE YOU CAN DEVELOP A THIRD SPECIALTY!
I'LL DO THAT, SIR!

HOW DO THEY SEEM?
PRETTY SAVVY! GOOD RECORDS! OUR MAIN JOB IS TO BUILD UP A LITTLE PRIDE IN THIS BOAT!

EVERYONE IN THE CREW WORKS NIGHT AND DAY AS THE INSPECTION DAY DRAWS NEARER...
(WHEW!) I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER PASS RITCHIE'S MUSTER!
YEAH... WE NEED THREE NEW ENGINES ...OR MAYBE JUST A WHOLE NEW BOAT!

WE'VE GOT MORE GREASE IN THE SOLVENT THAN WE HAVE ON THE GUNS, SKIPPER!
I'LL THROW IT OUT AND GET SOME CLEAN STUFF!

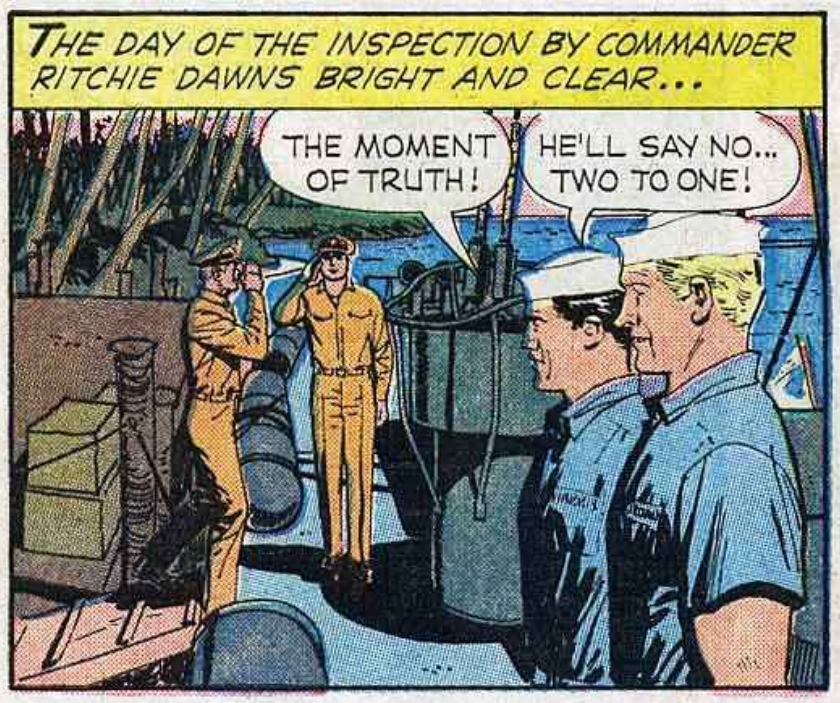
(SPLUTTER!) WHO THREW THAT STUFF DOWN ON ME? WHO DID IT?
SPLASH!

SORRY, CHIEF! I GUESS I'M YOUR MAN!
YOU'VE GOT A SEED PEARL FOR A BRAIN, SAILOR! AND YOU KNOW HOW BIG A SEED PEARL IS? IT'S THE SMALLEST PEARL IN THE WHOLE WORLD!

CHIEF... I DON'T THINK THE SKIPPER KNEW YOU WERE...
SKIPPER???

UH... SORRY, SIR... BUT SEED PEARLS IS THE BEST I CAN DO!
NO APOLOGY NECESSARY, CHIEF! SEND ME A BILL FOR THAT UNIFORM!

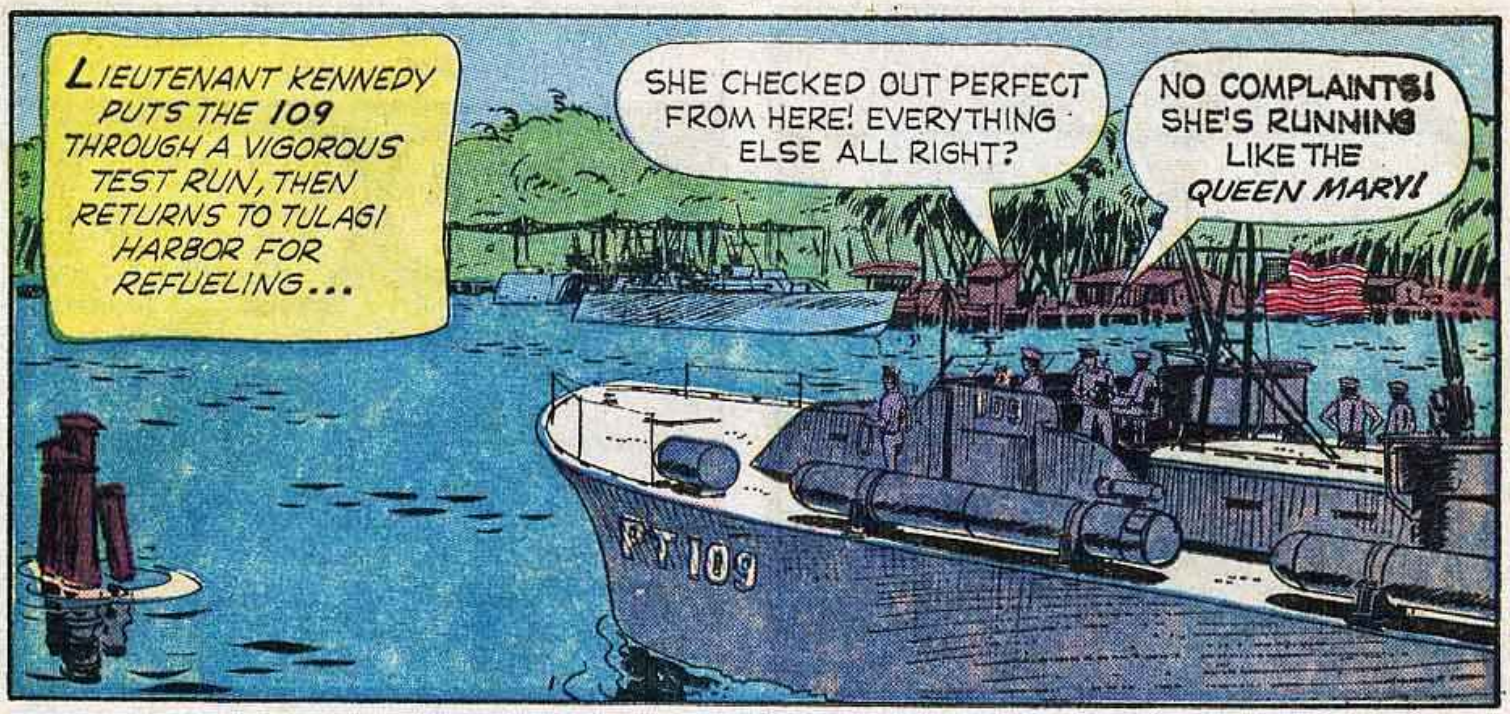
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, MAGUIRE... WE'VE GOT US QUITE A SKIPPER!
I'LL SURE GO ALONG WITH THAT!


THE DAY OF THE INSPECTION BY COMMANDER RITCHIE DAWNS BRIGHT AND CLEAR...
THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!
HE'LL SAY NO... TWO TO ONE!

RITCHIE LOOKS THE 109 OVER FORE TO AFT...
HOW DOES SHE LOOK, SIR?
WELL, SHE FLOATS! THAT'S SOME CONSOLATION!

YOUR BOAT IS READY FOR TEST RUNS, LIEUTENANT! TURN TO!
YES, SIR! THANK YOU, SIR!

YOU HEARD THE COMMANDER! LET'S TURN TO!
YEAAAAAA!


LIEUTENANT KENNEDY PUTS THE 109 THROUGH A VIGOROUS TEST RUN, THEN RETURNS TO TULAGI HARBOR FOR REFUELING...
SHE CHECKED OUT PERFECT FROM HERE! EVERYTHING ELSE ALL RIGHT?
NO COMPLAINTS! SHE'S RUNNING LIKE THE QUEEN MARY!
PT 109

DID THE ENGINES CHECK OUT, DRAWDY?
YES, SIR...BUT THEY'RE PRETTY TIRED! REVERSE 'EM AT HIGH SPEED AND SOMEDAY THEY'RE GONNA STALL! WE'LL WIND UP ON THE BEACH!

ON THE LOADING DOCK, KENNEDY IS MET BY LIEUTENANT ALVIN CLUSTER...
START REFUELING, KENNEDY! I'VE GOT A RESCUE MISSION FOR YOU! THINK THE 109 CAN HOLD TOGETHER?
YES, SIR! WHAT CAN WE DO?

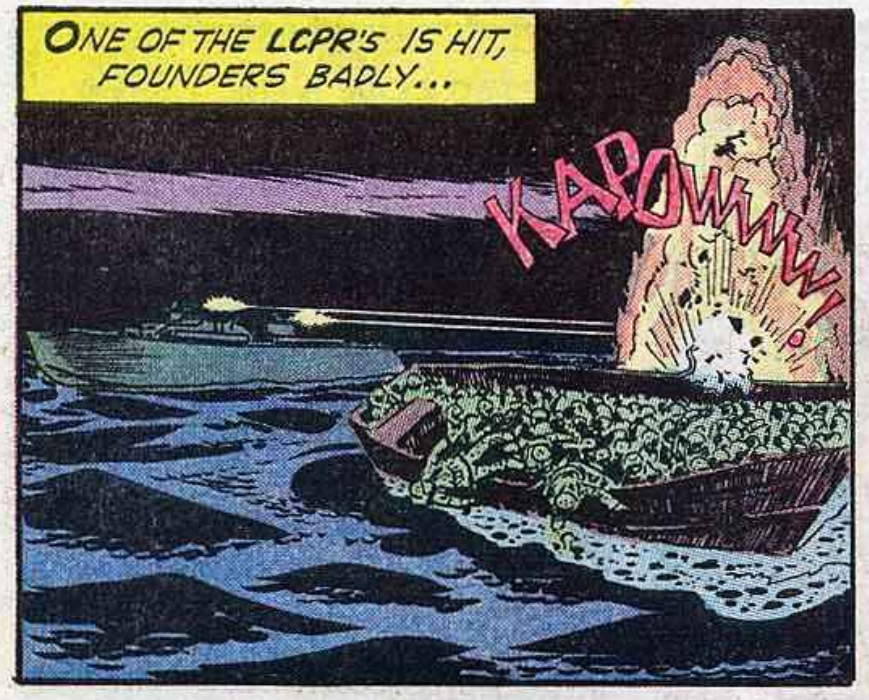
WE GOT A MESSAGE FROM AN AUSTRALIAN COASTWATCHER...ONE OF OUR MARINE PARACHUTE PATROLS ON CHOISEUL IS TRAPPED ON THE NORTH END OF THE ISLAND! YOU HAVE TO GET 'EM OFF!
BUT, LIEUTENANT ... WE CAN'T BEACH A PT...

WE HAVE TWO LCPR'S FOR THAT! YOU RENDEZVOUS OFF THE BEACH AND PROVIDE COVER! TAKE ON A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF FUEL! TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!
AYE, SIR!

THE 109, ONLY PARTIALLY REFUELED, IS UNDERWAY AND APPROACHING THE ISLAND OF CHOISEUL...
YOU'VE GOT A HEAVY FOOT, SKIPPER! WE'RE DOWN TO 300 GALLONS!
INCREASE SPEED TO 2,000 RPM'S! CLUSTER PROMISED A TOW IF WE RAN OUT OF FUEL!

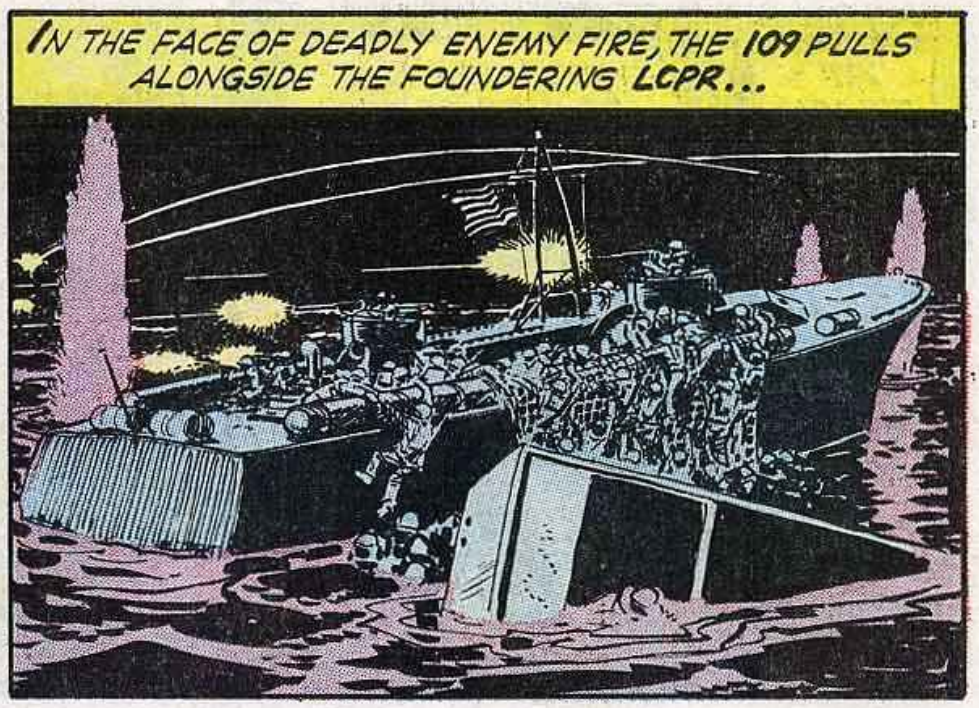
TWILIGHT IS GONE AS THE 109 REACHES THE ISLAND...
THE LCPR'S ARE MOVING IN, SKIPPER!
WE'LL GET AS CLOSE AS WE CAN WITHOUT BEACHING!
PT 109

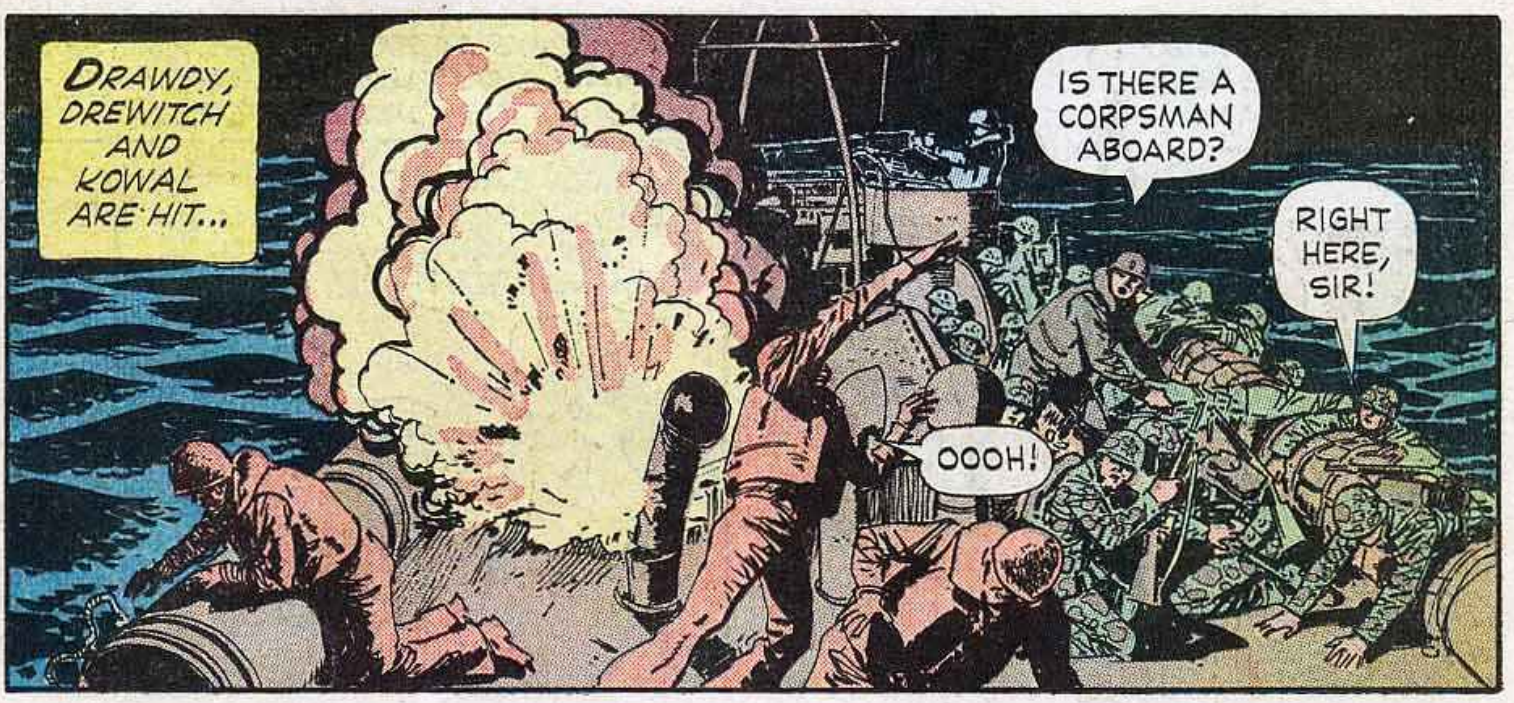
THE TRAPPED MARINES FIGHT VALIANTLY TO COVER THEIR ESCAPE TO THE WAITING LANDING CRAFT...


ONE OF THE LCPR'S IS HIT, FOUNDERS BADLY...
KABOWWW!

PRAIRIE DOG ...THIS IS HANGNAIL! WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE?
HANGNAIL...THIS IS PRAIRIE DOG! WE ARE DEAD IN THE WATER, SINKING HARD BY THE BOW! CAN YOU COVER BEACH FIRE AND PICK US UP?

WILCO! WE'RE COMING IN!


IN THE FACE OF DEADLY ENEMY FIRE, THE 109 PULLS ALONGSIDE THE FOUNDERING LCPR...


DRAWDY, DREWITCH AND KOWAL ARE HIT...
IS THERE A CORPSMAN ABOARD?
RIGHT HERE, SIR!
OOOH!

RIGHT FULL RUDDER... ALL AHEAD FULL! IT'S TIME TO RUN FOR HOME!

THANKS! WE'RE GRATEFUL!
GLAD WE COULD HELP! WE'LL LAND YOU AT VOZA... AND REFUEL... THEN WE'LL GET THE INJURED BACK TO TULAGI!

AT TULAGI...
THESE MEN WILL BE RELIEVED OF DUTY! WE'LL NEED REPLACEMENTS!
RIGHT, SIR!

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES! MAYBE WE'LL MEET UP AGAIN!
YOU, TOO, SKIPPER!

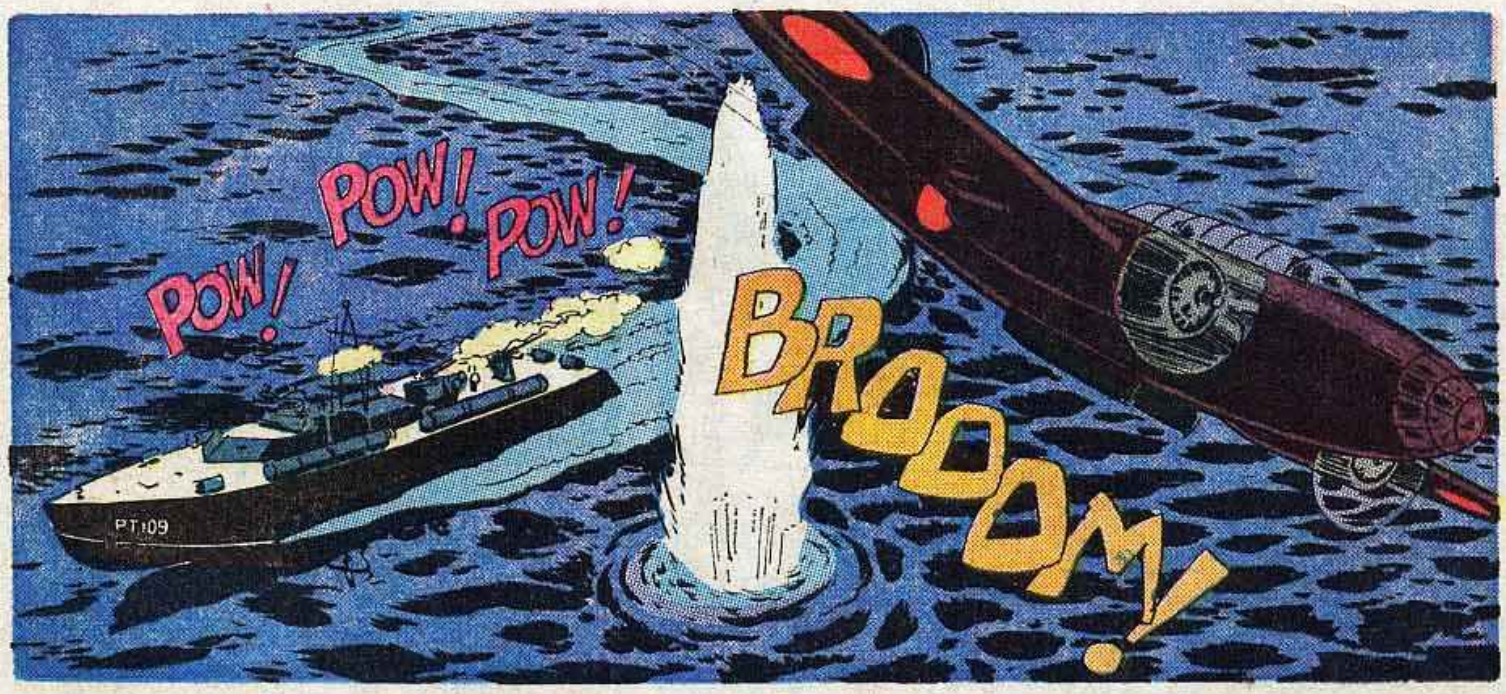
A FEW DAYS LATER, McMAHON, ZINSER, JOHNSTON AND STARKEY REPORT AS REPLACEMENTS FOR THE 109...
WELCOME ABOARD! I'M YOUR SKIPPER, LIEUTENANT KENNEDY!
THANK YOU, SIR!

WHA— ???
JUST THE COOK FISHING WITH A HAND GRENADE! IN THIS WAR, YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO SIT AROUND LIKE HUCKLEBERRY FINN!
BOOM!

LATER THAT SAME DAY...
I'M COMING WITH YOU TO RENDOVA, KENNEDY! YOU'RE TO BE PART OF BRANTINGHAM'S GROUP FOR THE TIME BEING!
YESSIR! GLAD TO HAVE YOU, COMMANDER RITCHIE!

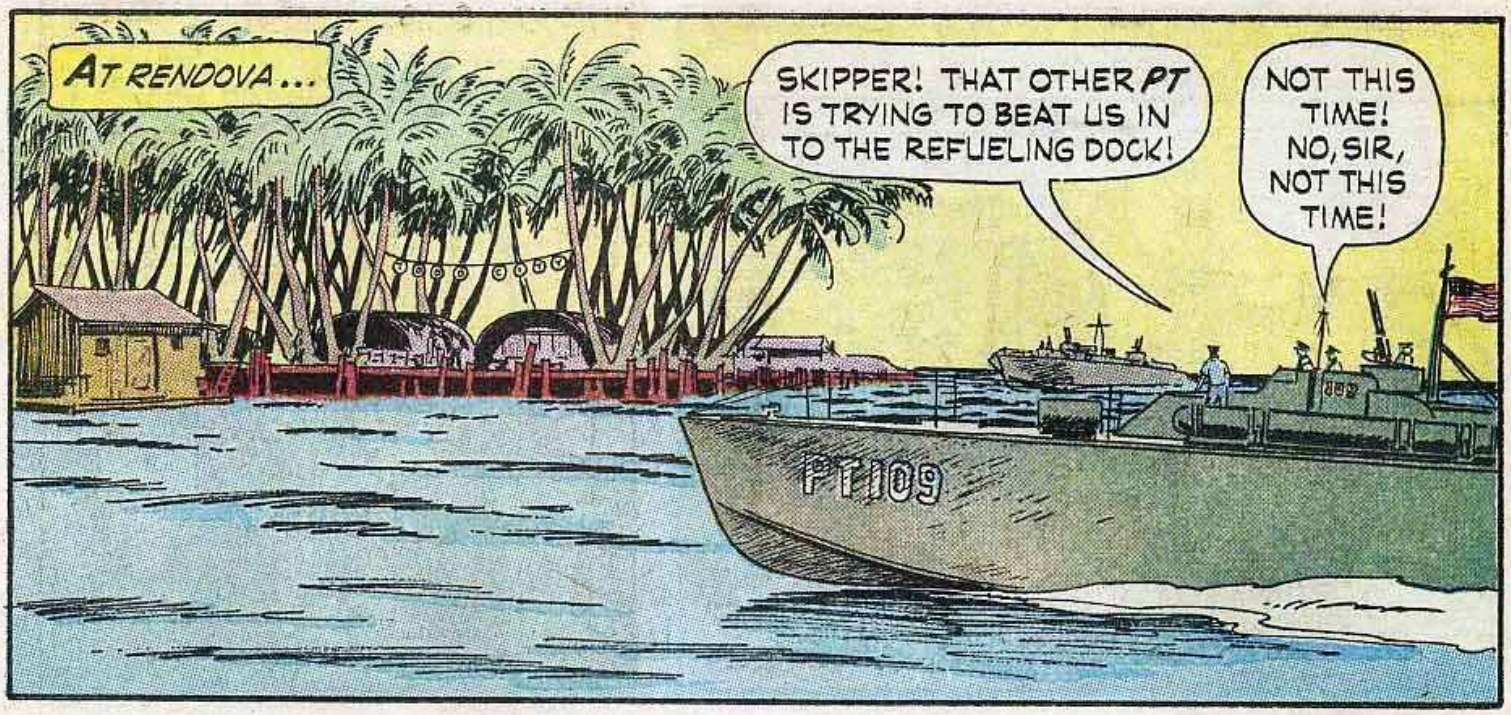
THE VOYAGE TO RENDOVA IS ANYTHING BUT A PLEASURE JAUNT...
BETTY ON THE STARBOARD BEAM, SKIPPER...COMING IN AT FIVE O'CLOCK!
ROGER! SOUND GENERAL QUARTERS!

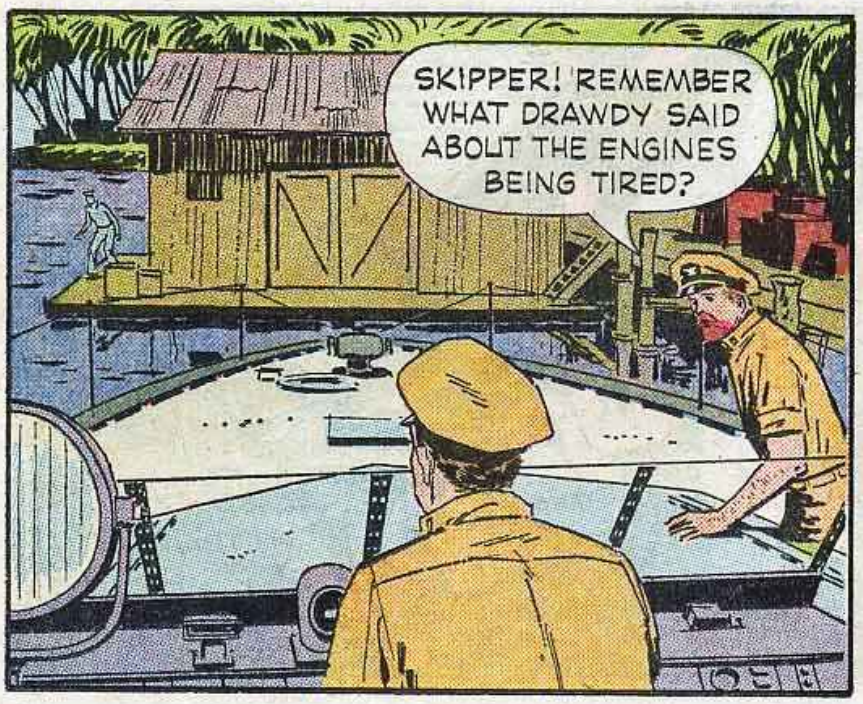
PERMISSION TO STAND BY AT TWENTY MILLIMETER? I'VE BEEN IN DRY DOCK A LONG TIME, LIEUTENANT!
PERMISSION GRANTED!


POW!
POW!
POW!
BROOOM!
PT-109

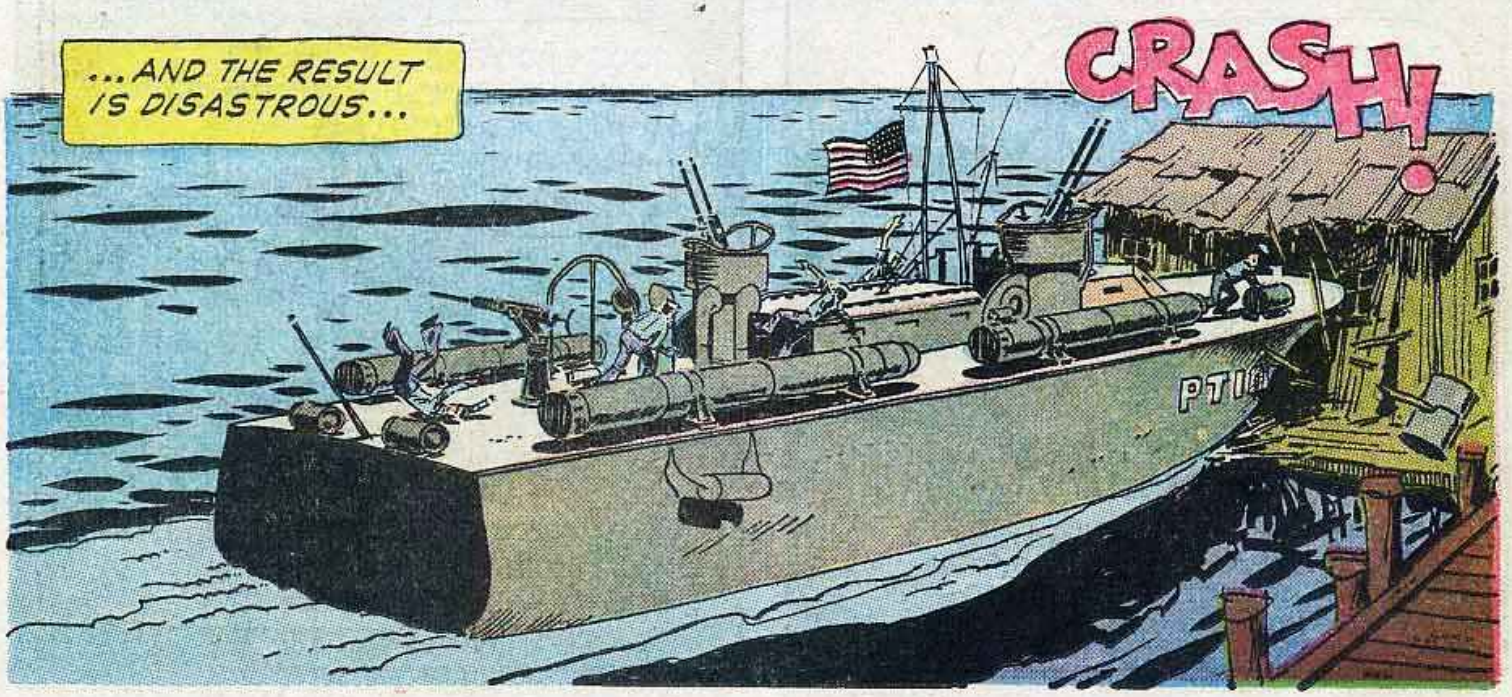
REQUEST PERMISSION TO TAKE OVER YOUR GUN! I'D LIKE A CRACK AT HIM, SON!
GO AHEAD, COMMANDER!

GOOD SHOOTING, COMMANDER! YOU MUST HAVE NICKED HIM! HE QUIT ON US!
BEGINNER'S LUCK! BUT THANK YOU, HARRIS! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!


AT RENDOVA...
SKIPPER! THAT OTHER PT IS TRYING TO BEAT US IN TO THE REFUELING DOCK!
NOT THIS TIME! NO, SIR, NOT THIS TIME!
PT109


SKIPPER! REMEMBER WHAT DRAWDY SAID ABOUT THE ENGINES BEING TIRED?

LIEUTENANT KENNEDY REVERSES THE POWERFUL ENGINES AT HIGH SPEED...


...AND THE RESULT IS DISASTROUS...
CRASH!

WELL, MR. KENNEDY, DID YOU ARRANGE THIS LANDING FOR MY BENEFIT OR DO YOU ALWAYS ARRIVE IN PORT LIKE THIS?
SORRY, SIR! THE ENGINES COULDN'T TAKE IT! I'LL PUT IT IN MY WRITTEN REPORT!

I'LL MAKE THE REPORT! YOU REPORT TO OPERATIONS RIGHT AWAY!
AYE, COMMANDER!

IN LIEUTENANT BRANTINGHAM'S OFFICE, KENNEDY MEETS AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE, ENSIGN GEORGE "BARNEY" ROSS...
HELLO, ROSS! HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE MELVILLE! WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO?
EXEC OFFICER ON THE 166 UP UNTIL THE OTHER NIGHT WHEN SHE WAS SUNK!

GENTLEMEN... A GROUP OF AMAGIRI CLASS DESTROYERS MAY TRY TO RUN TONIGHT! MY INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO USE EVERY AVAILABLE PT TO STOP THEM! WE WILL PATROL AREA BAKER! BE SURE YOUR FISH ARE READY TO FIRE!

WE'RE ON CONDITION RED, LIEUTENANT BRANTINGHAM!
ALL BOAT CAPTAINS, MAN YOUR BOATS!

LIEUTENANT BRANTINGHAM... I'M WITHOUT AN ASSIGNMENT! I WAS JUST SPEAKING WITH KENNEDY AND THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD JOIN THE 109!
I HAVE A .37 MILLIMETER LASHED ON, SIR! ROSS CAN HAVE A GO AT THAT!

WHERE'D YOU GET A .37 MILLIMETER, LIEUTENANT?
IT WAS LYING AROUND IN TULAGI! FIGURED WE COULD USE THE ADDED FIREPOWER!

ALL RIGHT, ROSS! YOU'RE WITH THE 109! MONITOR REGULAR CHANNELS! MAINTAIN RADIO SILENCE! GOOD LUCK AND GET AT IT!
YESSIR!

KABOOOM!
ACK
ACK
ACK!
LATER, THE SWIFT PT'S MOVE THROUGH ENEMY FIRE. THEIR MISSION... TO INTERCEPT AND DESTROY ANY SHIPS TRYING TO CROSS BLACKETT STRAIT...

IN THE STRAITS, KENNEDY TURNS THE HELM OVER TO THOM AND GOES BELOW...
I HEAR YOU'VE GOT THE BLUES, ANDY! WHAT IS THE TROUBLE?
I'VE GOT THIS FEELING, SIR! I'M...NOT COMING BACK FROM THIS ONE! I...CAN'T SHAKE IT OFF! WHAT CAN I DO?

ALL YOU CAN DO IS YOUR JOB, ANDY...LIKE THE REST OF US... AND PRAY! COME ON, GIVE ALBERT A HAND WITH THE 20 MM!

LATER, TOPSIDE...
MESSAGE FROM OAK ELEVEN, SIR! REDUCE SPEED TO SIX KNOTS... MUFFLE ALL ENGINES!
ROGER!

IF WE JUST HAD RADAR...WE CAN'T SEE A THING...AND THERE SURE IS A LOT OF WATER OUT THERE!
AND THAT'S JUST THE TOP OF IT!

CAN YOU SPOT THE 159, MAUER?
NOT NOW, SIR! SHE WAS DIRECTLY ABEAM TEN MINUTES AGO!

ON THE COMMAND SHIP, PT 159...WITH LIEUTENANT BRANTINGHAM...
RADAR CONTACT, SIR!
COMING!

BEARING ZERO NINE FIVE... RANGE THREE FIVE DOUBLE OH...
MUST BE BARGES... CLOSE ASHORE!

GO TO ATTACK SPEED... ALL GUN STATIONS, PREPARE TO STRAFE!
PT 159

SUDDENLY A BLINDING LIGHT STABS ACROSS THE BLACK WATERS FOLLOWED BY HEAVY CALIBRE GUNFIRE...
THEY'RE NOT BARGES! TORPEDOES STAND BY TO FIRE!

WHOOOSH!

HAVE FIRED FISH! ALL UNITS MOVE OUT... FAST!

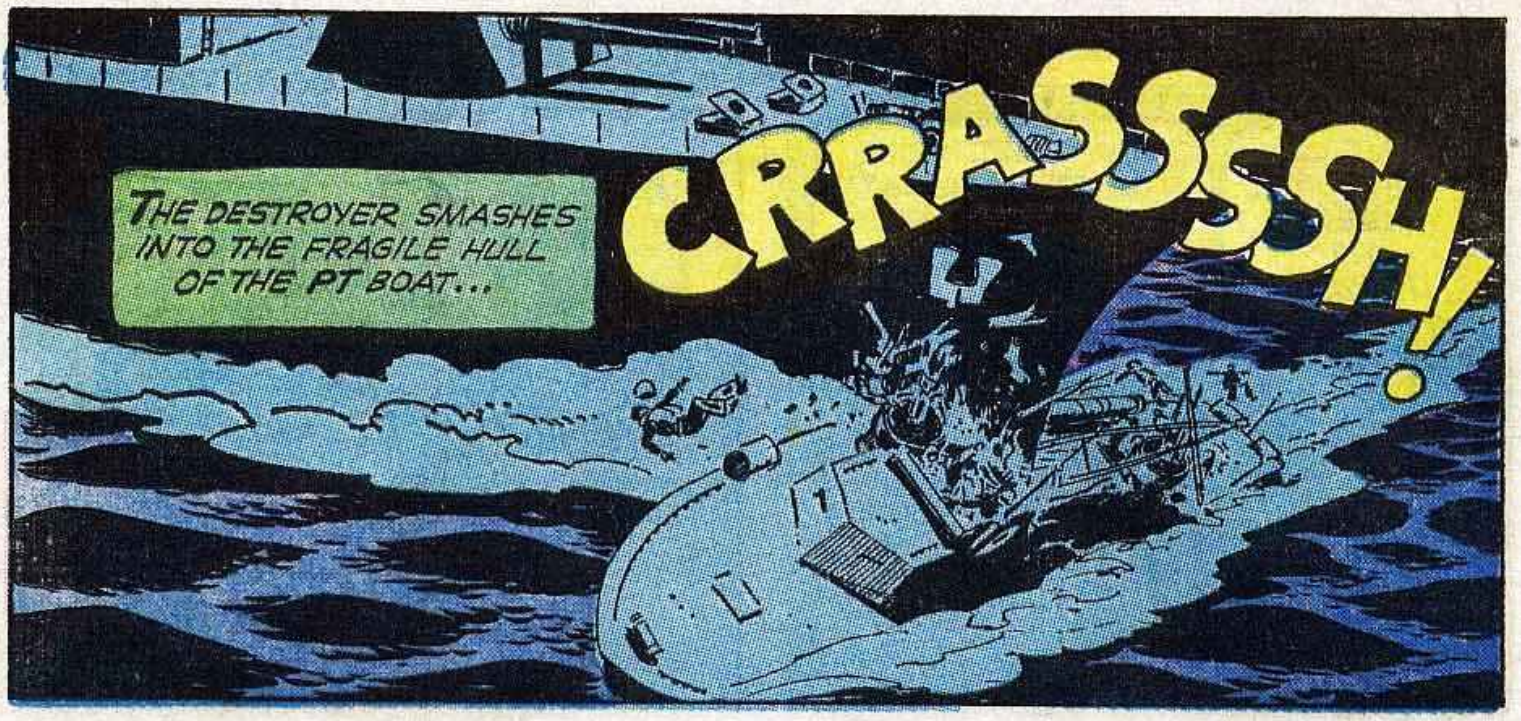
THE MESSAGE REACHES THE PT 109...
MOVE OUT, HE SAYS... MOVE OUT TO WHERE?
THEY'RE NOT FIRING FISH AT AN ISLAND OUT THERE... MAGUIRE, FIND OUT WHAT THEY WANT US TO DO!

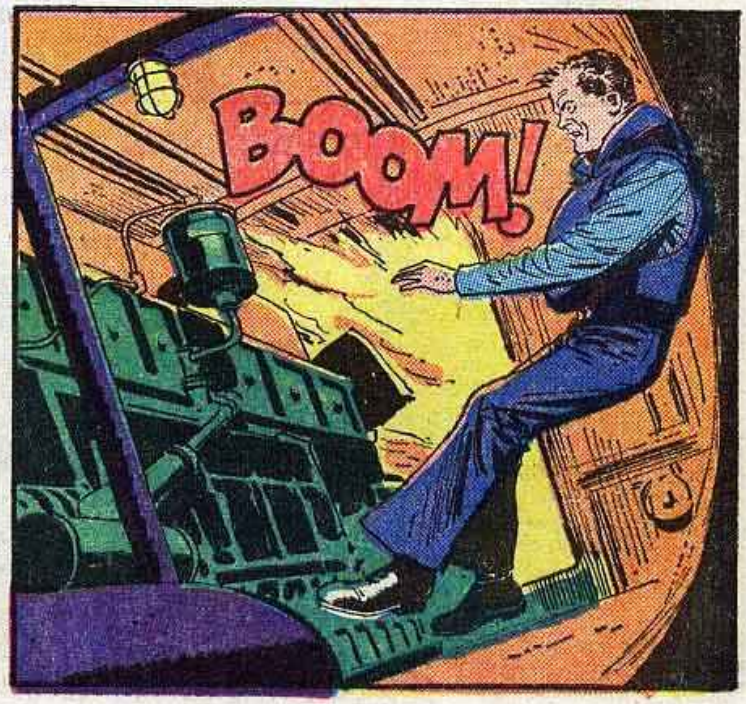
MOMENTS LATER...
OUR ORDERS ARE TO PATROL SOUTH TOWARD WANAWANA! I'M NOT SURE WHERE IT IS!
NEITHER AM I!

THE PT 109 GLIDES THROUGH THE DARKNESS...
WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE, ROSS? WHERE ARE THE OTHER BOATS?
I DON'T KNOW! JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS WAR WITHOUT HAVING TO WRITE HOME!

SUDDENLY...
SHIP AT TWO O' CLOCK!

A JAPANESE DESTROYER LOOMS OUT OF THE DARKNESS HEADING DIRECTLY TOWARD THE PT 109...
SOUND THE GENERAL QUARTERS ALARM!
SHE'S GOING TO HIT US!
PT 109


THE DESTROYER SMASHES INTO THE FRAGILE HULL OF THE PT BOAT...
CRRASSSSH!


BOOM!

THE SEA AROUND THE DAMAGED SHIP BECOMES A MASS OF FLAMES...

HANG ON!
DUCK UNDER THE WATER! TRY AND SWIM UNDER THE FLAMES...

LIEUTENANT KENNEDY STAGGERS OUT OF THE COCKPIT...
WHO'S ABOARD?
MAUER, SIR!

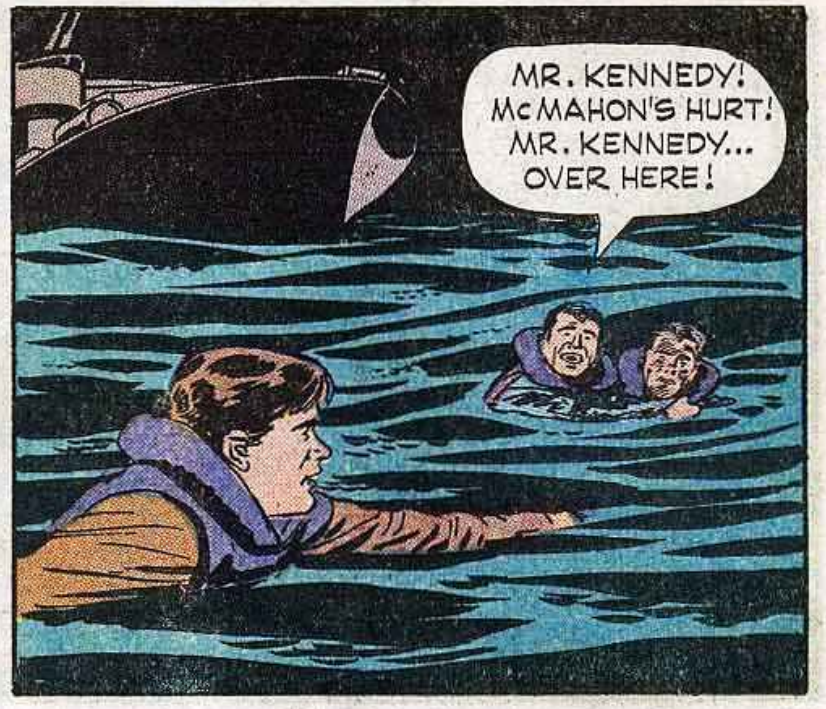
THERE ARE GAS TANKS UNDER US! OVER THE SIDE!

SPLASH!

SOON...
IT'S SAFE NOW! THE FIRE HAS RECEDED! CLIMB ABOARD!

MR. THOM'S DROWNING! OVER HERE!
KEEP THAT LIGHT BLINKING! I'M GOING BACK!

GOT- GOT TO KEEP HIS HEAD UP!
I'LL HELP YOU! WE CAN GET HIM BACK!


MR. KENNEDY! McMAHON'S HURT! MR. KENNEDY... OVER HERE!

KENNEDY REACHES THE STRICKEN MEN...
I HURT MY LEG!
SWIM TOWARD THE BLINKER, HARRIS! I'LL TAKE McMAHON!

I-I CAN'T MAKE IT!
KEEP GOING, HARRIS! IT'S JUST A LITTLE FARTHER!

SOON...
GET HIM ON DECK! I'M GOING BACK FOR HARRIS!

LET'S GO, NOW! IT'S NOT FAR!
I CAN'T... MY LEG!

LEAVE ME ALONE!
I SAID, COME ON!

ENSIGN THOM RESCUES JOHNSTON, WHO HAD BECOME CAUGHT IN HIS LIFE JACKET...
YOU SEE MARNEY OR KIRKSEY?
NOT ON THIS SIDE!

KIRKSEY AND MARNEY, SIR... NO ONE HAS SEEN THEM SINCE WE WERE HIT!
WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER LOOK!

YOU GO TO STARBOARD, THOM... MAUER, KEEP THAT BLINKER GOING!
YES, SIR!

KIRKSEY... MARNEY...

DAWN, AT RENDOVA...
JIM, SEND THIS MESSAGE TO C.O. PATRON BAKER ON GUADALCANAL..."BELIEVE PT 109 LOST IN NIGHT ACTION AUGUST 2ND.—TWO MILES SOUTHWEST OF MERUSU ISLAND...CREW OF THIRTEEN ABOARD. REQUEST AIR SEARCH AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE..."

ON THE PT 109, LIEUTENANT KENNEDY TAKES STOCK OF THE SITUATION...
McMAHON HAS THIRD DEGREE BURNS ON BOTH HANDS...FACE, ARMS AND LEGS ALMOST AS BAD...
JOHNSTON'S BEEN SICK FOR TWO HOURS...MUST'VE TAKEN ON SMOKE!

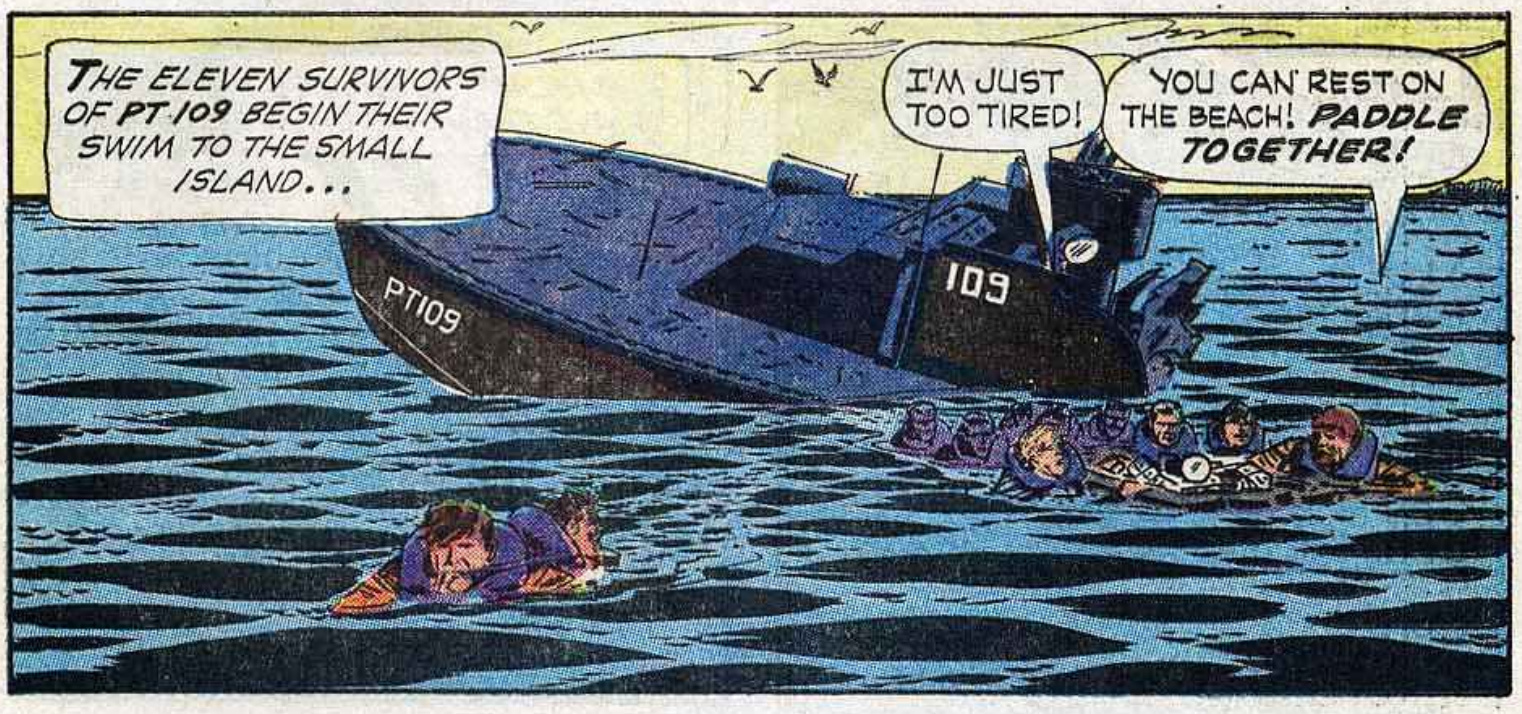
IF WE GET BACK IT'LL BE WITHOUT MARNEY AND KIRKSEY!
ANDY KNEW HE WAS GOING TO DIE...HE KNEW IT ALL THE TIME...

EVEN IF THIS SHIP DOESN'T GO UNDER, WE'LL FLOAT RIGHT DOWN IN THEIR LAPS ...THE QUESTION IS... WHICH ISLAND?
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF SWIMMING THERE? SOME OF THOSE ISLANDS ARE ENEMY HELD!

WE KNOW KOLOMBANGARA IS... AND GIZO...AND MAYBE THIS ONE...OUR BEST CHANCE IS PLUM PUDDING ISLAND...IT'S ABOUT THREE AND A HALF MILES!

MAGUIRE, BREAK OUT EVERY PIECE OF PORTABLE GEAR WE HAVE! WE'LL USE THE WOODEN GUN PLATFORM FOR A FLOAT...
SKIPPER... HOW FAR DID YOU SAY THAT ISLAND IS?

DON'T WORRY, BUCKY! IT'S ONLY THREE INCHES ON THE CHARTS!


THE ELEVEN SURVIVORS OF PT 109 BEGIN THEIR SWIM TO THE SMALL ISLAND...
I'M JUST TOO TIRED!
YOU CAN REST ON THE BEACH! PADDLE TOGETHER!
PT109
109

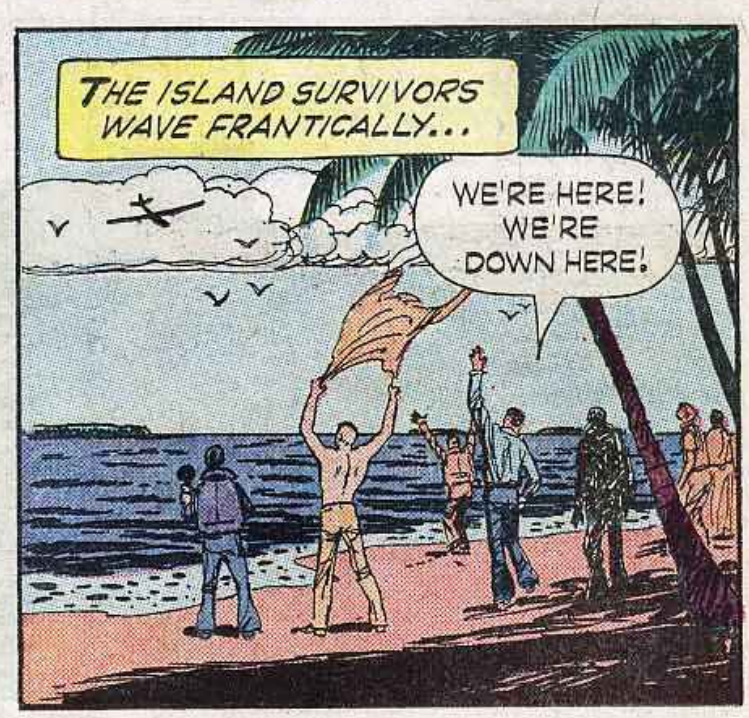
LATER...
WE MADE IT!

SUDDENLY...
A JAP PATROL! HURRY UP!

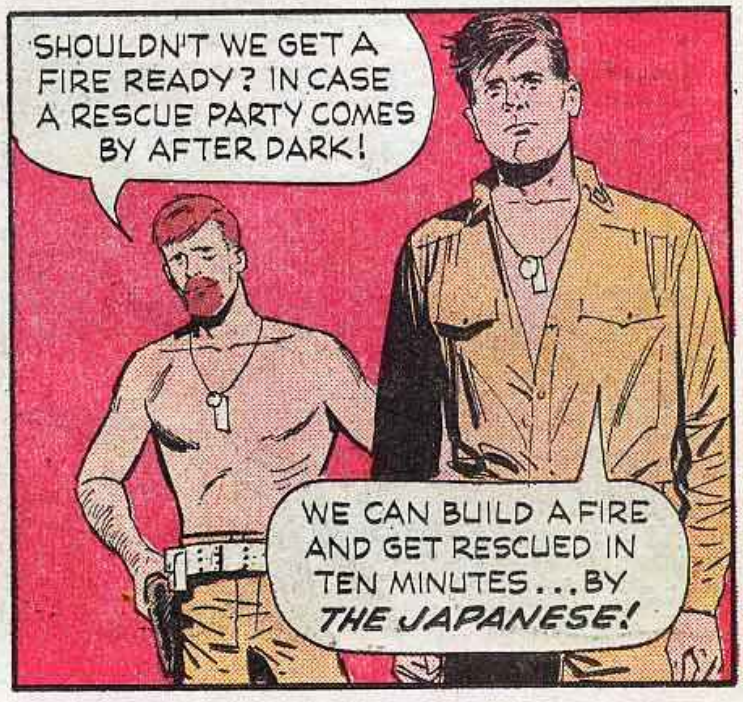
THE BRUSH UP THERE! TAKE COVER!

THE MEN HARDLY DARE TO BREATHE AND THEN...
IT'S PULLING AWAY... WE'RE SAFE...

LATER...
LOOK! DOWN THERE... WRECKAGE...


THE ISLAND SURVIVORS WAVE FRANTICALLY...
WE'RE HERE! WE'RE DOWN HERE!

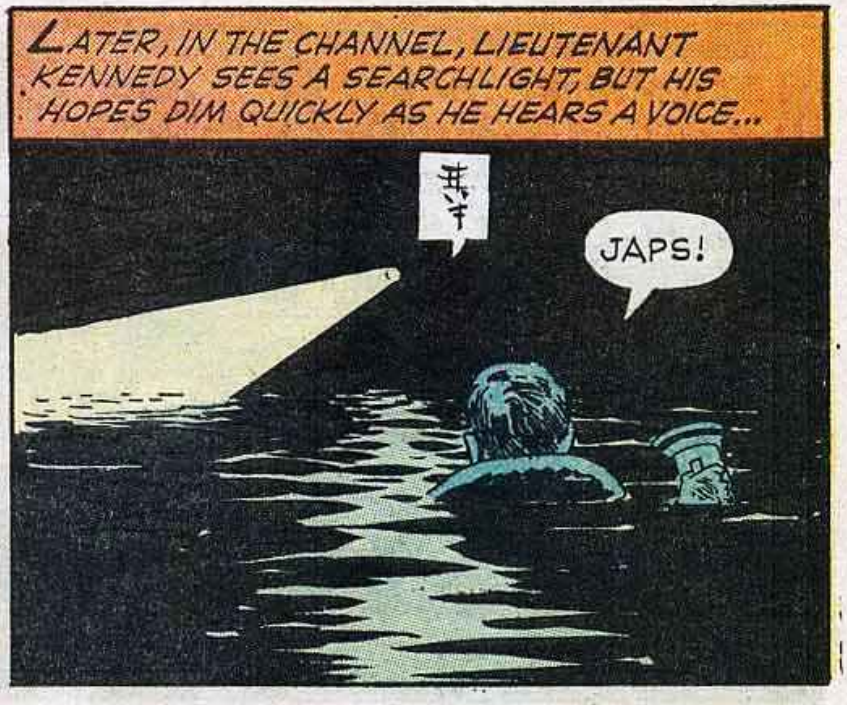
BUT THE FLIERS FAIL TO SEE THE MEN, REPORTING ONLY WHAT THEY SEE IN THE WATER BELOW...
OAK LEAF ONE... THIS IS BLUEJAY... HAVE LOCATED WRECKAGE MID-CHANNEL! POSSIBLE SURVIVORS... NEGATIVE! REPEAT... NEGATIVE!


SHOULDN'T WE GET A FIRE READY? IN CASE A RESCUE PARTY COMES BY AFTER DARK!
WE CAN BUILD A FIRE AND GET RESCUED IN TEN MINUTES... BY THE JAPANESE!

THAT'S FERGUSON PASSAGE! OUR BOATS ARE BOUND TO COME THROUGH THERE ON NIGHT PATROL ...IF I COULD GET OUT THERE WITH A LANTERN, WE MIGHT FLAG THEM DOWN!
YOU CAN'T TREAD WATER ALL NIGHT!

THERE'S A CORAL STRIP THAT RUNS OUT THERE...I CAN WALK PART WAY...I HAVE TO GIVE IT A TRY!

THAT NIGHT...
BETTER KEEP LOOKOUTS ON ALL NIGHT... IF I FIND A BOAT, I'LL FLASH THE LANTERN!
GOOD LUCK!


LATER, IN THE CHANNEL, LIEUTENANT KENNEDY SEES A SEARCHLIGHT, BUT HIS HOPES DIM QUICKLY AS HE HEARS A VOICE...
JAPS!

KENNEDY DUCKS BENEATH THE SURFACE JUST IN TIME...

FINALLY THE CRAFT MOVES ON...
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!

THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER HIS ALL-NIGHT VIGIL IN THE SEA...
THEY DIDN'T COME! ALL I SAW WAS A JAP BARGE... THEY DIDN'T COME...

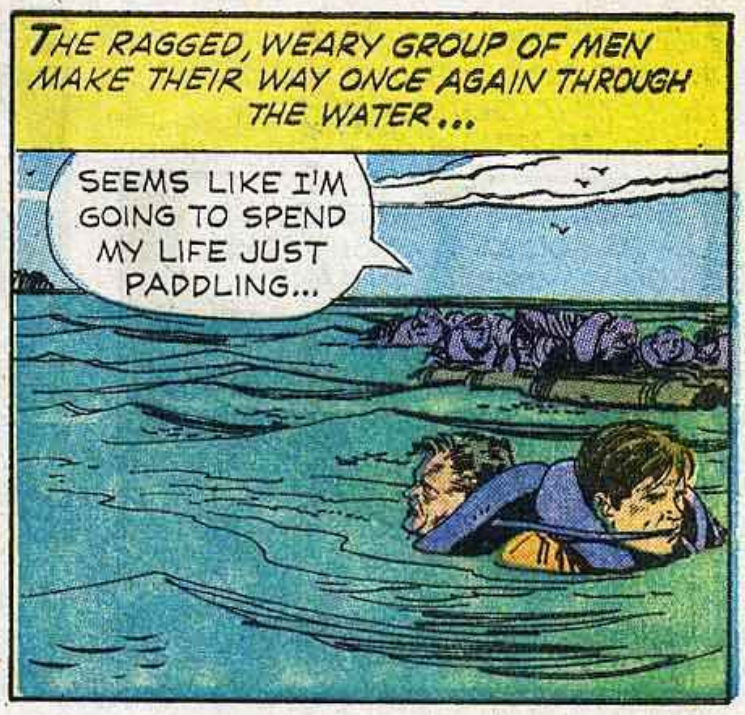
THAT NIGHT, ROSS TAKES THE CHANNEL WATCH...
WHY DON'T THEY COME?

BUT THE NEXT MORNING THE ANSWER IS THE SAME...
ANOTHER BLANK!
LET'S GET PLANKING AND START LASHING GEAR! WE'RE MOVING TO OLASANA!
WHY MOVE? AT LEAST WE KNOW THERE AREN'T ANY JAPS HERE!

WE ALSO KNOW THERE ISN'T ANY FOOD HERE... BESIDES, OLASANA IS CLOSE TO FERGUSON PASSAGE! THOSE BOATS ARE COMING THROUGH TONIGHT... THE ODDS ARE ON OUR SIDE...
HONESTLY, LIEUTENANT, YOU AMAZE ME... YOU REALLY DO!

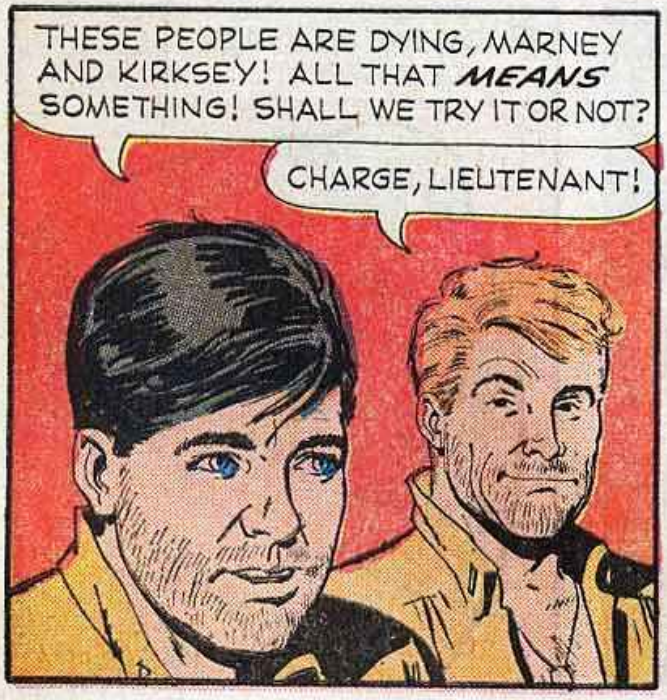
HERE WE ARE... BEAT AND BURNED... GIVEN UP FOR DEAD... NO FOOD AN' IN THE MIDDLE OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND JAPANESE SOLDIERS... AND YOU DECIDE THE ODDS ARE ON OUR SIDE!

ALL RIGHT, IT'S A FLAW IN CHARACTER... COME ON! IN THE WATER BY NOON!


THE RAGGED, WEARY GROUP OF MEN MAKE THEIR WAY ONCE AGAIN THROUGH THE WATER...
SEEMS LIKE I'M GOING TO SPEND MY LIFE JUST PADDLING...

BUT ON THE NEXT ISLAND, THINGS ARE NO BETTER...
ANY LUCK, SKIPPER?
NO LUCK, ZINSER! THERE'S NO FOOD OR WATER HERE...

WE CAN TRY THAT ONE OVER THERE...
WE CAN'T KEEP SWIMMING AROUND FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND...IT'S LIKE RUSSIAN ROULETTE ...ONE OF THESE TIMES...


THESE PEOPLE ARE DYING, MARNEY AND KIRKSEY! ALL THAT MEANS SOMETHING! SHALL WE TRY IT OR NOT?
CHARGE, LIEUTENANT!

AND SO, KENNEDY AND ROSS STRIKE OUT FOR THE NEXT ISLAND...

THEY RETURN LATER WITH A NATIVE CANOE, FOUND ABANDONED BY THE JAPANESE ON THE ADJOINING ISLAND...

I'D RATHER WE'D FOUND SOMETHING TO *EAT!*

THIS CANOE MIGHT COME IN HANDY...

BUT AS THEY JOIN THE OTHERS...

ISLANDERS!

AND WITH *JAPANESE* RIFLES!

WHO ARE THEY?

DON'T KNOW...BUT I DON'T TRUST THEM... *OR* THOSE RIFLES!

HARRIS SPOTTED THEIR CANOE DOWN THE BEACH, BUT THEY SPOTTED MAUER *FIRST!*

DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THEY SPEAK ENGLISH...

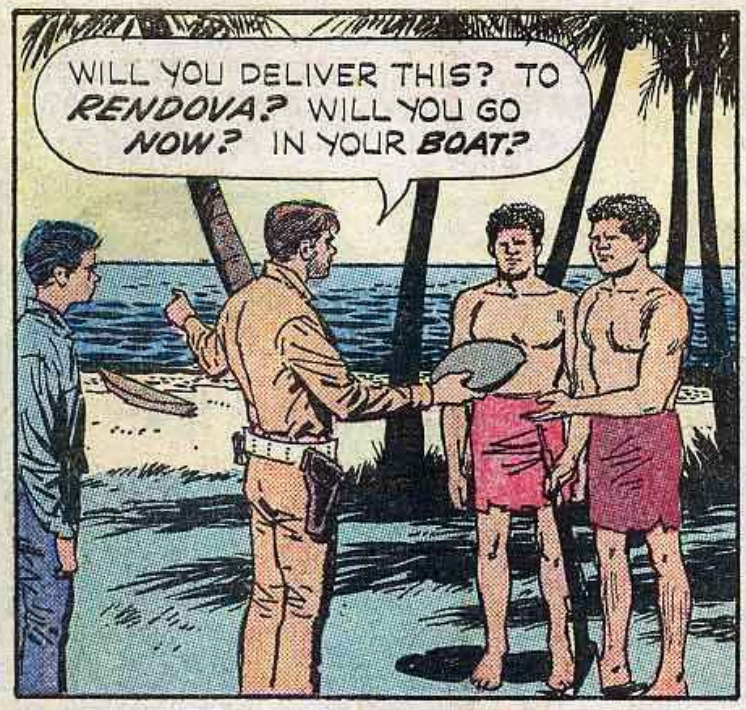
LIEUTENANT KENNEDY MAKES A DECISION...

TRY AND GET THROUGH TO THEM WHILE I GET DOWN A MESSAGE ON THIS COCONUT... MAYBE THEY'LL DELIVER IT FOR US!

YOU WANT MY OPINION, THEY'LL PROBABLY EAT IT!

SOON, THE MESSAGE IS FINISHED...

NATIVE KNOWS POSIT. HE CAN PILOT. ELEVEN ALIVE NEED SMALL BOAT. ... KENNEDY


WILL YOU DELIVER THIS? TO RENDOVA? WILL YOU GO NOW? IN YOUR BOAT?

SEEMING TO UNDERSTAND, THE NATIVES MOVE TO THE BEACH...
I WISH THEY KNEW HOW MUCH WE HAVE RIDING ON THIS!
THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS ME... A PAIR LIKE THAT... SEND 'EM TO RENDOVA, THEY'RE LIABLE TO END UP IN SEATTLE!

SEE WHAT I MEAN? THEY'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR KOLOMBANGARA!
WE'VE STILL GOT THAT CANOE WE FOUND! THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN GET INTO THE STRAITS TONIGHT!

BUT THAT NIGHT, ROUGH SEAS DRIVE THEM BACK...

THE MORALE OF KENNEDY'S MEN IS AT A LOW EBB...
WHAT GOOD IS IT? WE'VE STRUCK OUT! LET'S ADMIT IT!... IF THOSE NATIVES WERE GOING TO HELP US, THEY NEVER MADE IT IN THAT STORM!
THE REST OF YOU... HOW DO YOU FEEL, STARKEY?

ALBERT'S RIGHT... ONLY I DON'T THINK HE SHOULD HAVE KICKED THE LANTERN!
ZINSER?

IT'S GETTING SO I REALLY DON'T CARE, MR. KENNEDY!
WELL, START CARING! ALL OF YOU! IF THOSE NATIVES DON'T GET THROUGH, SOMETHING ELSE WILL HAPPEN! IF IT DOESN'T, WE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN!

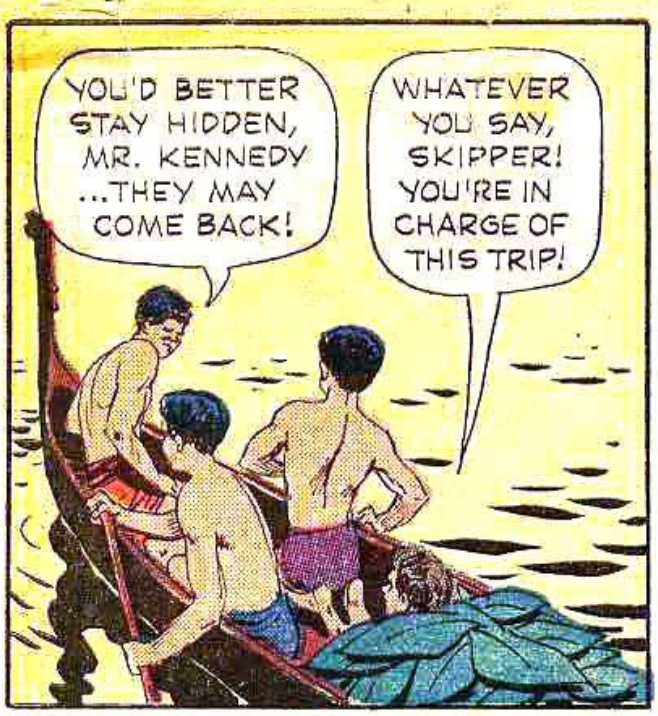
I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHEN ... BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO DIE OUT HERE! WE'RE GOING HOME! IF WE HAVE TO GET IN THE WATER AND DRAG THIS WHOLE ISLAND BACK, WE'RE GOING HOME!

A LITTLE OVER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, A CANOE ARRIVES AT THE ISLAND...
MR. KENNEDY... I'M BENJAMIN KEVU! I HAVE A LETTER FOR YOU!

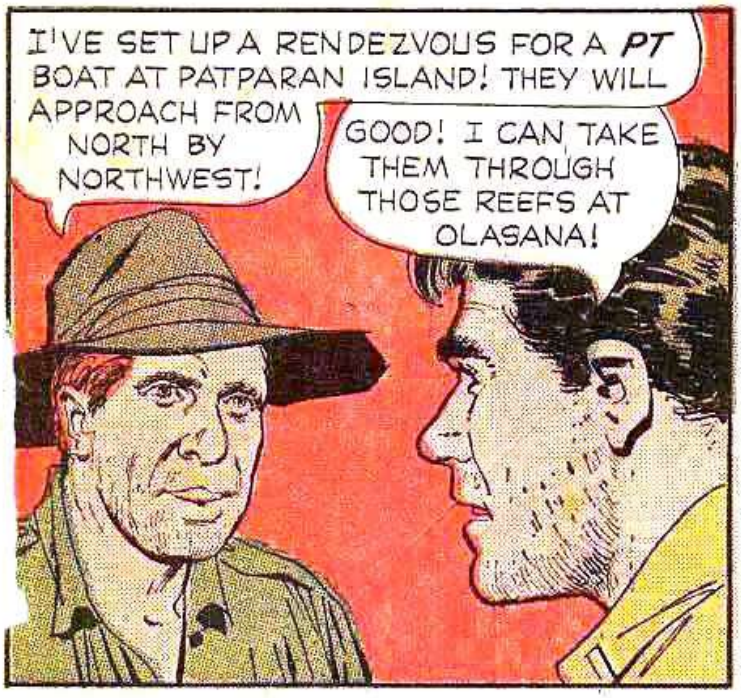
FROM A COASTWATCHER NAMED EVANS... HE GOT THE COCONUT! HE'LL ADVISE RENDOVA! I'M TO MEET WITH HIM AND ARRANGE A RENDEZVOUS!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW? THOSE JOKERS GOT THROUGH!

WE SHOULD LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! THE JAP PATROLS ARE ACTIVE!
IS NOW SOON ENOUGH?

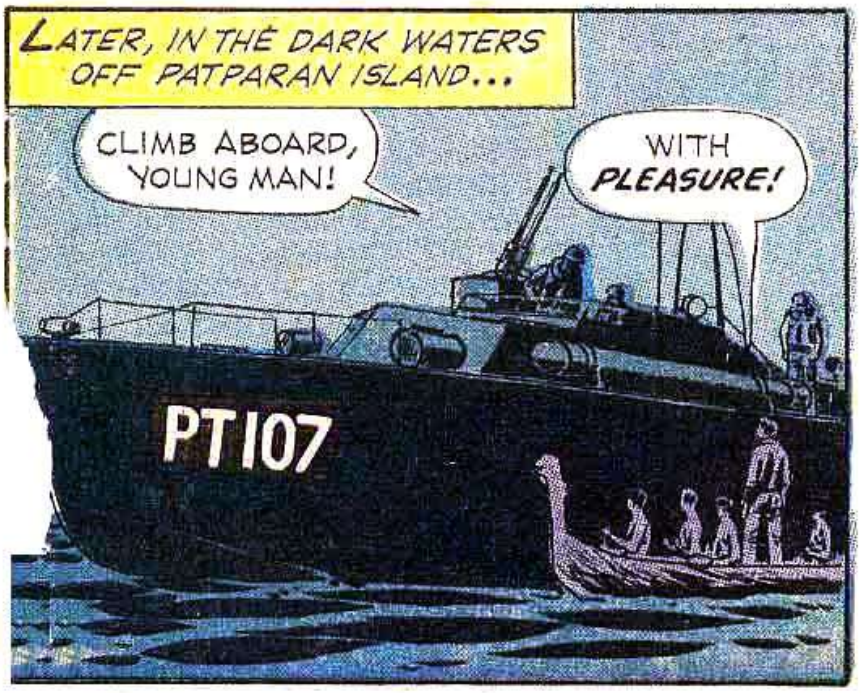
AS THE CANOE HEADS AWAY, A JAP AIR PATROL FLIES OVER...
WAVE AT THEM! KEEP SMILING!


YOU'D BETTER STAY HIDDEN, MR. KENNEDY ...THEY MAY COME BACK!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SKIPPER! YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THIS TRIP!

AT A REMOTE INLET ON GOMU...
I'M REG EVANS! VERY GLAD YOU MADE IT!
THANKS! I'M JACK KENNEDY ...AND GLAD TO BE HERE!


I'VE SET UP A RENDEZVOUS FOR A PT BOAT AT PATPARAN ISLAND! THEY WILL APPROACH FROM NORTH BY NORTHWEST!
GOOD! I CAN TAKE THEM THROUGH THOSE REEFS AT OLASANA!

I'M VERY GRATEFUL...
GLAD TO HELP, KENNEDY! GOOD LUCK!


LATER, IN THE DARK WATERS OFF PATPARAN ISLAND...
CLIMB ABOARD, YOUNG MAN!
WITH PLEASURE!
PT107

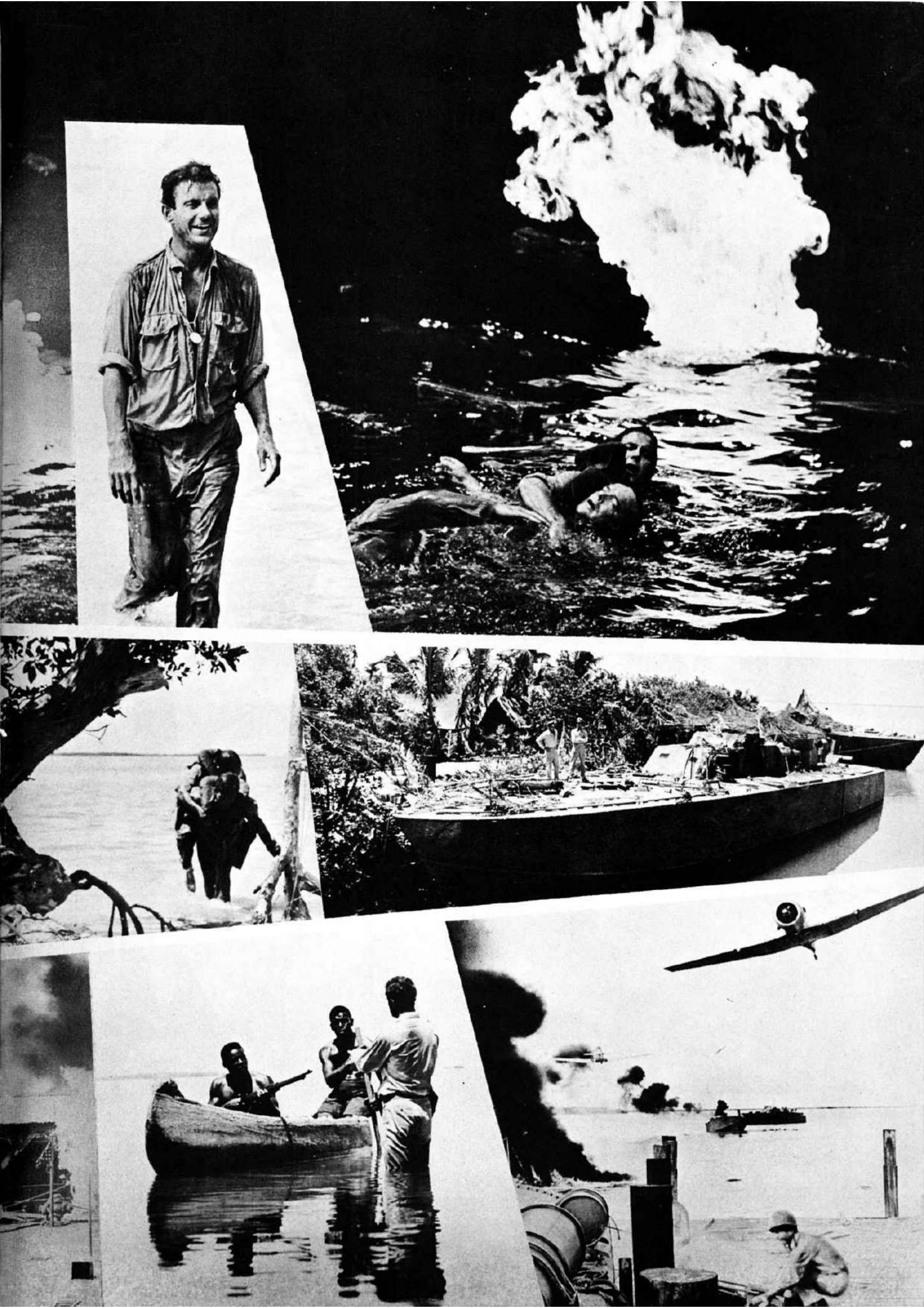
LATER...
ABOUT HERE... YOU SHOULD HAVE PLENTY OF RUNNING ROOM...
LEFT TEN DEGREES RUDDER... ALL AHEAD IDLING!

THE LONG DAYS OF SUFFERING AND WAITING HAVE COME TO AN END...
ANYBODY FOR RENDOVA? LAST BOAT TONIGHT!
YAHOO! WE'RE GOING HOME!

YOU NEED SOME REST... ALL OF YOU RATE STATESIDE LEAVE! I'LL PUT IN A REQUEST!
NO, THANKS! I WANT ANOTHER BOAT! I'LL GO HOME WHEN THE WAR'S OVER!

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE? STUBBORN!!!
IT'S SOMETHING I'VE PICKED UP THE LAST SEVEN DAYS!

LIEUTENANT JOHN F. KENNEDY GOT HIS SECOND BOAT... SOME OF HIS CREW MEMBERS JOINED HIM AGAIN... BUT FOR KENNEDY, AS FOR THE OTHERS, THE SAGA OF PT 109 WOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN... A COURAGEOUS STORY OF WORLD WAR II... ONE THAT WILL LIVE IN HISTORY...
the E



LT. (j.g.) JOHN F. KENNEDY (IN SOUTH PACIFIC)

CLIFF ROBERTSON IN "PT 109"